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What Are DHT Nodes?

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A DHT node is a part of a distributed hash table. A distributed hash table is a system that is commonly used in peer-to-peer file sharing networks such as Napster. A DHT node is the mechanics that are used to find specific information shared on the network. When a user inputs specific search words such as a name, the DHT nodes are responsible for searching the database to find that information and bring it up as a search result.

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Features

DHT nodes are not a physical object. They are a set of algorithms or matrixes that are programmed to search in a specific manner through all the data inside the shared files. Since the distributed hash table is a flexible table system, it is often used for file sharing programs that are known for frequent changes. The nodes are programmed to find specific tags on files and bring them up as a result when the right tags have been included in a search.

Function

DHT nodes are not just used in peer-to-peer file sharing. They are also used for many other processes. The reason that the distributed hash table is a popular format of data retrieval is due to the minimal disruption in the programming when data changes, is deleted from the system, or is moved to another location. Other uses for the distributed hash table include: web caching, domain name services, distributed file systems, and much more.

Size

The sizes of the DHT nodes vary. Usually distributed hash tables are large and complex. This makes the nodes use a higher level of complexity. As mentioned before, they are not a physical object at all, so the only size difference will be how complex their programming is. Typically the larger the distributed hash table, the more complex the DHT nodes are going to be.

Misconceptions

Many people believe that the distributed hash tables were created to pirate music and other copy written materials. This was never the case. The original purpose of distributed hash tables and DHT nodes was more of a file sharing project for research projects. Similar to full text databases, the distributed hash tables were designed to enable computer users to borrow information from one another so that the knowledge of each user and research could be increased. The idea of using the DHT nodes to share illegal music downloads and other pirated software was created later as an afterthought.

Significance

DHT nodes and distributed hash tables are important in the way that today's computers and computer systems are run. Almost any database uses the distributed hash table format. People really like this format of table and the DHT nodes because it is an easy way to find information, and it is less likely to crash than when using other systems. The use of the distributed hash table is wide-spread. The distributed hash table has changed the way that computer networks are operated for the better. The illegal file-sharing is just an unpleasant side effect that will hopefully soon be under control.

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